

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 13, and 17 are independent. In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to claims 9 and 14-16 based on minor informalities; rejected claims 1-3, 6-12 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over, *Noguchi et al.* (USP 4,978,980); and rejected claims 4-5 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Noguchi et al.* in view of *Yasui et al.* (USP 5,839,032). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Examiner Interview

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the Interview conducted on December 18, 2007. During the Interview, the parties discussed “a rotation of the intermediate roller is in synchronism with a resumption of rotation of the resist roller,” as recited in the claims. The parties further discussed the teachings of the claimed invention and including the recitation of a controller and its function in the claims. The amendments herein are made further to the discussion during the Interview.

Applicants respectfully refer to their arguments set forth in their previously filed Reply for arguments regarding the claim objections and the claim rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, and Applicants’ remarks included in their previously filed reply, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisin Reg. No.

52,327 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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